Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~of claim 1,~~ comprising:

receiving a request to take an action with respect to a distributed electronic document;

identifying, in response to the request, information associated with the distributed electronic document, the associated information indicating a second electronic document different from the distributed electronic document; and

imparting information concerning the second electronic document to force the action to be taken with respect to the second electronic document;

wherein receiving the request comprises receiving, at a server, the request from a client to take the action with respect to the distributed electronic document, wherein the distributed electronic document is retained locally at the client, identifying the associated information comprises identifying associated information ~~retained~~ at the server, and imparting the second document information comprises relating the second document information from the server to the client.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein relating the second document information comprises sending the second document information to the client to allow the client to obtain the second document.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein relating the second document
information comprises:

    obtaining the second electronic document; and

    sending the second electronic document to the client.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the second electronic document
comprises a later version of the distributed electronic document, and the associated information
comprises document-permissions information specifying that the action is not permitted with
respect to the distributed electronic document at the client.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the document-permissions
information specifies access permissions at a level of granularity smaller than the distributed
electronic document.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the associated information comprises
user-dependent association information indicating the second electronic document, and obtaining
the second electronic document comprises identifying the second electronic document based on
the user-dependent association information and an identified user at the client.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein obtaining the second electronic
document further comprises generating at least a portion of the second electronic document
based on the identified user.

11.   (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the distributed electronic document comprises a software program, the second electronic document comprises a later version of the software program, and the action comprises running the software program.

13. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

accessing the distributed electronic document at the client;

identifying an address of the server and a document identifier in the distributed electronic document;

sending the document identifier and the requested action to the server using the address; and

replacing the distributed document, at the client, with the second document.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein replacing the distributed document comprises performing the action with respect to the second document.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the second document includes the address of the server and a second document identifier, and replacing the distributed document further comprises writing over the distributed document with the second document in a storage device.

16. (Original) A method comprising:

opening a locally retained distributed document;

contacting a document control server identified from the distributed document; and

forcing use of a second document in place of the distributed document, with respect to at least one document action, based on information received from the document control server.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising obtaining the second document based on the received information.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the received information comprises the second document.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the second document comprises a later version of the distributed document, and forcing use comprises transparently closing the distributed document and opening the second document.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein forcing use further comprises transparently overwriting the distributed document with the second document.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the received information comprises document-permissions information specifying permissions relating the second document with the distributed document.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the distributed document comprises a software program, the second document comprises a later version of the software program, and the at least one document action comprises running the software program.

23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended) A The software product of claim 23, tangibly embodied in a machine-readable medium, the software product comprising instructions operable to cause one or more data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:
        receiving a request to take an action with respect to a distributed electronic document;

identifying, in response to the request, information associated with the distributed electronic document, the associated information indicating a second electronic document different from and associated with the distributed electronic document; and

imparting information concerning the second electronic document to force the action to be taken with respect to the second electronic document;

wherein receiving the request comprises receiving, at a server, the request from a client to take the action with respect to the distributed electronic document, wherein the distributed electronic document is retained locally at the client, identifying the associated information comprises identifying associated information ~~retained~~ at the server, and imparting the second document information comprises relating the second document information from the server to the client.

25.   (Original) The software product of claim 24, wherein relating the second document information comprises sending the second document information to the client to allow the client to obtain the second document.

26.   (Original) The software product of claim 24, wherein relating the second document information comprises:

obtaining the second electronic document; and

sending the second electronic document to the client.

27.   (Original) The software product of claim 26, wherein the second electronic document comprises a later version of the distributed electronic document, and the associated information comprises document-permissions information specifying that the action is not permitted with respect to the distributed electronic document at the client.

28.   (Original) The software product of claim 26, wherein the associated information comprises user-dependent association information indicating the second electronic document,

and obtaining the second electronic document comprises identifying the second electronic
document based on the user-dependent association information and an identified user at the
client.

29.   (Original) The software product of claim 28, wherein obtaining the second
electronic document further comprises generating at least a portion of the second electronic
document based on the identified user.

30.   (Original) The software product of claim 26, wherein the distributed electronic
document comprises a software program, the second electronic document comprises a later
version of the software program, and the action comprises running the software program.

31.   (Original) A software product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable medium,
the software product comprising instructions operable to cause one or more data processing
apparatus to perform operations comprising:
    opening a locally retained distributed document;
    contacting a document control server identified from the distributed document; and
    forcing use of a second document in place of the distributed document, with respect to at
least one document action, based on information received from the document control server.

32.   (Original) The software product of claim 31, wherein the operations further
comprise obtaining the second document based on the received information.

33.   (Original) The software product of claim 31, wherein the received information
comprises the second document.

34.   (Original) The software product of claim 31, wherein the second document comprises a later version of the distributed document, and forcing use comprises transparently closing the distributed document and opening the second document.

35.   (Original) The software product of claim 34, wherein forcing use further comprises transparently overwriting the distributed document with the second document.

36.   (Original) The software product of claim 31, wherein the received information comprises document-permissions information specifying permissions relating the second document with the distributed document.

37.   (Original) The software product of claim 36, wherein the document-permissions information specifies access permissions at a level of granularity smaller than the distributed document.

38.   (Original) The software product of claim 31, wherein the distributed document comprises a software program, the second document comprises a later version of the software program, and the at least one document action comprises running the software program.

39.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a client operable to send a request to a server when an action is to be taken with respect to a distributed electronic document local to the client; and

a server operable to receive the request, and in response to the client, the server being operable to identify information associated with the distributed electronic document, the associated information ~~being retained at the server and~~ indicating a second electronic document different from and associated with the distributed electronic document, the server being operable to relate information concerning the second electronic document to the client to ~~facilitate~~ **force** the action to be taken **with respect to the second electronic document**.

40.   (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the server comprises:

a server core with configuration and logging components;

an internal services component that provides functionality across dynamically loaded methods; and

dynamically loaded external service providers, including one or more access control service providers.

41.   (Original) The system of claim 39, further comprising:

a business logic tier comprising a cluster of document control servers, including the server;

an application tier including the client comprising a viewer client, a securing client, and an administration client; and

a load balancer that routes client requests to the document control servers.

42-46. (Cancelled)

47.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the document-permissions information specifies access permissions at a level of granularity smaller than the distributed document.

48.   (New) The software product of claim 27, wherein the document-permissions information specifies access permissions at a level of granularity smaller than the distributed electronic document.

49.   (New) The software product of claim 24, wherein the operations further comprise:

accessing the distributed electronic document at the client;

identifying an address of the server and a document identifier in the distributed electronic document;

sending the document identifier and the requested action to the server using the address; and

replacing the distributed document, at the client, with the second document.

50.   (New) The software product of claim 49, wherein replacing the distributed document comprises performing the action with respect to the second document.

51.   (New) The software product of claim 50, wherein the second document includes the address of the server and a second document identifier, and replacing the distributed document further comprises writing over the distributed document with the second document in a storage device.

52.   (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the second electronic document comprises a later version of the distributed electronic document, and the associated information comprises document-permissions information specifying that the action is not permitted with respect to the distributed electronic document at the client.

53.   (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the document-permissions information specifies access permissions at a level of granularity smaller than the distributed electronic document.

54.   (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the associated information comprises user-dependent association information indicating the second electronic document, and the server is operable to identify the second electronic document based on the user-dependent association information and an identified user at the client.

55.   (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the server is operable to generate at least a portion of the second electronic document based on the identified user.

56.   (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the client is operable to identify an address of the server and a document identifier in the distributed electronic document, send the document identifier and the requested action to the server using the address, and replace the distributed document, at the client, with the second document by writing over the distributed document with the second document in a storage device.